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USSR DEVELOPS NEW CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

UKRAINIAN PLANT PRODUCES MIKROPORIT -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 8 Feb 52

The Dneprovskiy Silica Brick Plant in Zaporozh'ye has started production of a new universal construction material, mikroporit, which replaces timber, bricks, and concrete products.

During a 3-year period, the plant collaborated with a group of workers from the Scientific Research Institute of Construction Materials, Academy of Architecture Ukrainian SSR, in developing methods to produce the new material. The basic raw material used was loess-type loam and river sand. This material, combined with unslaked lime and water, produces a construction material which is light and strong, heatproof, fireproof, and soundproof. Mikroporit has been manufactured by the Zaporozh'ye plant in the form of wall tiles, bricks, girders, and even in the form of insulation lining for steam pipes and other pipes. Mikroporit has the strength of silica brick, but it is so light that it floats in water. Plates made of this material can be sawed like wood and fastened together with nails.

The new material has been tested in the construction of multistoried apartment houses in Zaporozh'ye. It has been used for soundproof walls of apartments, fireproof interstory and attic floors and ceilings, and other structural parts, replacing wooden beams, boards, bricks and concrete. Construction workers have given the new material a high rating.

Mikroporit can be produced by any silica brick plant, and relatively small investments have to be made to acquire additional equipment for this purpose. Mikroporit costs only half as much as silica brick and other materials.

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NEW TYPE OF FLOORING DEVELOPED -- Vil'nyus, Sovetskaya Litva, 30 Jan 52

The Khar'kov Construction Materials Combine of the Ministry of Construction of Machine-Building Enterprises has just begun production of large-panel layered plates of a new design. These plates consist of three layers: the bottom layer of concrete is 3 centimeters thick; the middle 10-centimeter layer is made of porous cementless slag concrete; and the 3-centimeter top layer consists of reinforced concrete.

The new construction parts, which are designed for interstory floors, are more soundproof than hollow plates or ceramic tile flooring. The use of these new plates will speed up construction work and reduce costs.

SOUNDPROOF TILES USED IN MOSCOW UNIVERSITY BUILDING -- Kishinev, Sovetskaya Moldaviya, 2 Feb 52

Soundproof facing tiles, a novelty in construction materials, are being used for finishing the walls and ceilings of halls, auditoriums, and other rooms of the new Moscow State University building. The tiles are made of colored high-grade cement, fired kaolin, and finely ground brick. The use of these tiles will provide good acoustics and add to the decoration of the halls. Many thousand square meters of thest tiles have been produced for the new Moscow University building.

APPROVE TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR NEW MATERIALS -- Moscow, Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, 2 Feb 52

A meeting was held by the Technical Administration of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR to discuss the planned standards of new materials, i.e., porous clay brick and hollow ceramic blocks, to be produced in large quantities in 1952. Representatives from the following organizations took part in the meeting: State Committee for Construction Affairs under the Council of Ministers USSR; Academy of Architecture USSR; Ministries of Construction Materials Industry of the RSFSR, of the Belorussian SSR, and of the Latvian SSR; ROSNIIMS (RSFSR Scientific Research Institute of Local Construction Materials); and NIIStroykeramika (Scientific Research Institute of Construction Ceramics). Technical indexes for porous clay brick were approved.

SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE DEVELOPS NEW TYPE OF CONCRETE -- Moscow, Pravda, 24 Mar 52

An associate of the Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources, Academy of Sciences Latvian SSR, has developed a new method of making waterproof foundations. Laboratory experiments with asphalt concrete and tar concrete, made with an admixture of a new waterproof material, proved that the waterproof quality has increased more than tenfold as compared with standard samples. Especially good results were obtained with tar concrete; it was found equal in strength to cement concrete.

In certain structures, for example in the construction of dams, it will be possible to replace cement concrete by tar concrete or asphalt concrete. The production of these types of concrete is less time-consuming, as well as cheaper and simpler than the former type. Waterproof mineral powder can be used in the manufacture of roofing paper and waterproofing material. This improves the quality of roofing and makes it more durable.

LATVIAN PLANT PRODUCES NEW TYPE OF PLYWOOD -- Riga, Sovetskaya Latviya, 8 Apr 52

The "Latviyas berzs" Plywood Plant has mastered the production of so-called bakelite plywood. As distinguished from ordinary plywood, which is glued together with casein glue, the production of bakelite plywood requires glue made of artificial resin. This makes the plywood waterproof. This type of plywood is made of the best grades of wood and is widely used in construction work where a higher degree of moisture prevails. The plant has acquired special rollers for spreading the resin glue on the veneer sheets.

The "Furniyers" Plant has also started production of bakelite plywood.

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